



135-2 Warsaw Street  
Deep River, CT 06417  
(860) 227-8598  
amerboatservices@aol.com  
www.AmericanBoatingServices.com

March 10, 2009

To the Members of the Transportation Committee:

I am writing to you today in reference to Raised Bill No. 6651, and I urge you **not to support this bill** as it is currently written. I suggest that the word "boat" either be removed from the bill, or be amended to "boat on a trailer".

The means by which land-based vehicles (or motorized personal property) are attended to when they are abandoned is not comparable to the process in which water-borne vessels are attended to. This seems to be some attempt to incorporate all vehicles with a motor under the umbrella of the DMV. However, a boat is not a vehicle – it is a vessel.

There are just too many divergent authorities involved. The State of Connecticut already has provisions in the General Statutes (Chapter 263, Section 15-11a) for "Removal and Taking of Derelict Vessels" which is administered by the Department of Transportation and the local Harbormaster. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection enforces Section 15-140d, the "Illegal Obstruction to Navigation or Public Use of Waters" with a fine of \$80. (This would be in conflict with Section 14-150a, which states the fine would be at least \$85.) I am in favor of enforcing existing laws, rather than passing new ones that will only add confusion.

More times than not, admiralty law (which is based on hundreds of years of case law) will supercede state law because a state court hearing an admiralty or maritime case is required to apply the admiralty and maritime law (even if it conflicts with the law of the state). This convention comes from the United States Constitution, which grants original jurisdiction to U.S. federal courts over admiralty and maritime matters (Article III, Section 2).

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

*Timothy Hyatt*  
Captain Timothy Hyatt